

Intergovernmental Relations and the Census. Upon my appointment to the House Rules Committee, I was required to relinquish my chairmanship, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Full Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS and the staff for their tremendous efforts.

In the 108th Congress, the Subcommittee held 39 hearings—substantive hearings—on issues ranging from the threats of cyber terrorism, to the President's Management Agenda, to Geospatial issues and to planning for the 2010 Census. During this time, I believe that we have put America on alert—in government, the private sector and home computer use—to the threats posed by cyber criminals and how best to protect our resources.

Much of the success that we enjoyed on the subcommittee is due to the hard work and expertise of the staff, which took a citrus farmer from Central Florida and brought him up to speed on the intricacies of new technologies and their importance to all Americans. My able Staff Director, Bob Dix, led a truly outstanding team of individuals who worked tirelessly to conduct thorough oversight of the areas of jurisdiction of my subcommittee. They deserve much of the credit for the positive impact that we have made.

Lastly, I would like to thank Chairman TOM DAVIS for the trust he placed in me. As my predecessor on the Technology Subcommittee, he left great shoes to fill. I appreciate his guidance and friendship, and I pledge to continue working on these issues of importance in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT RYAN CASPER

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good works of first Lieutenant Ryan Casper, who has served both his country and the Iraq community in an astounding manner. Lt. Casper, an Army Reservist serving in the 477th Ambulance Company, has demonstrated unyielding dedication to improving the dire situation thousands of Iraqi students are experiencing.

Lt. Casper, a history teacher from Ellsworth High School, has extended his passion for education from his classroom in Wisconsin into the Iraq community. He has been instrumental in meeting the needs of the students by restoring educational structures in Iraq. The deteriorating infrastructure of the education facilities and the absence of essential school supplies generated Lt. Casper's inspiration to create a charity that ministered to the needs of school-aged children. Lt. Casper understands that a sanitary and well-equipped facility is necessary before a quality education can be achieved.

As an active member of the military for twenty years, Lt. Casper is executive officer of a ground ambulance company that transports patients and medical supplies from Baghdad to Southern Iraq. Casper's charity, the 477th Hearts and Minds Club, has provided numerous children with school supplies. Lt. Casper's operation was made successful by the donations he received from citizens in the United

States. The largest contributor to his cause were Ellsworth High School students who collected over a thousand items to be used by students in Iraq. The supplies donated to the Hearts and Minds Club were delivered to various schools during ambulance runs performed by Lt. Casper's unit.

Lt. Casper's actions were successful in furnishing Iraqi schools with essential supplies, but more importantly, his actions altered the mindset of students in Iraq. The poor perception of American soldiers by Iraqi children wavered with the arrival of new materials. The once feared soldier was transformed into a heroic character overnight.

In October of 2003, and September of 2004, to personally lend my support to the troops engaged in this war, I had the great privilege of visiting Iraq. I met with troops and received a first-hand assessment of the reconstruction activities. After witnessing the poor conditions facing many citizens of Iraq, I felt great inspiration that one of my constituents had demonstrated such steadfast leadership in serving both his country and the citizens of Iraq. I would like to congratulate and thank Lt. Ryan Casper for his perseverance and unselfish desire to improve the world around him. Lt. Casper once said, "A goodwill gesture can go a long way in this country and hopefully we can supply that gesture."

MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 106 offered by Representative Marilyn Musgrave.

The resolution, if passed by two-thirds of both the House and the Senate, and if ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures, would amend the United States Constitution with the following language:

"Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

This nation once again finds itself wrestling with monumental social questions of family. The way in which we choose to answer these questions will have far-reaching consequences upon ourselves and our descendants.

Throughout recorded history, civilizations have existed and perpetuated themselves with basic principles of social structure. Some cultures have emphasized different principles such as community responsibility while others have emphasized individual responsibility. But all civil peoples have survived and prospered only where raising children was ideally the responsibility of their mother and father.

Over the past century we have seen many changes in American culture. We have witnessed an explosion of new travel opportunities, access to information and advances in medicine. Certainly social norms have shifted. We have made progress, in the truest sense, such as recognizing the fundamental human

rights of all people no matter their color or creed. And we have also made egregious regressions such as legalizing the aborting of unborn children. Even in this advanced age, we must continue to wage battles against injustices.

But with all the change the United States has undergone and will continue to undergo—there will always remain the goal to ensure that our children are able to perpetuate life and all things good. Any changes we allow to happen and support through legislation that affects this goal should be scrupulously considered.

The resolution before the House today seeks to articulate what constitutes a marriage—not because we have some new definition, but because a small number of judicial activists and social re-engineers are seeking to impose a new definition and experiment with the structure in which children are encouraged to be raised. If we do nothing and allow the courts to re-define marriage, State and Federal governments will soon have little or no authority to ultimately restrain any imaginable form of marital contract between couples and groups of people and even animals.

It is no secret marriage has been under assault in recent decades. With rising occurrences of extra-marital affairs, divorce, spousal abuse and teenage mothers becoming more commonplace among our population, many wonder why marriage is worth preserving at all. But just because the institution of marriage has experienced turbulent times is no reason to give up on it as the ideal for which we should strive.

I want to emphasize that millions of single moms and dads across this country are struggling to do what is right for their children. They love their children and want them to do well and succeed and someday have an opportunity to have a healthy family of their own. As we debate how to best help sustain the institution of marriage, we should acknowledge that these parents are doing a terrific job raising their children to the best of their ability. They should be commended, especially the single moms who probably have the toughest job in America.

While recognizing the honorable single moms and dads, we should also work to help reduce the number instances where children grow up in homes without both their mother and father as a part of the family.

As a representative to the United States Congress on behalf of the people from the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. The preamble to that great document states that two of the Constitution's purposes are to "promote the general Welfare" and "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." I consider how we raise our children and with whom that responsibility lies to be among the most crucial decisions we face in promoting the general well-being of all Americans and our descendants.

As the government seeks to provide for the general welfare of its citizens, I believe it should promote that which provides the maximum protection for our youngest generation. A child is best nurtured and protected when both the mother and father are sharing the responsibility of raising the child.

While not everyone who enters into marriage desires children or is able to have children, the context of their marriage is an example of how a man and a woman should live together in a way where children could be raised and cared for. We all know kids are observant and curious, and they watch how friends, neighbors and relatives live. And most children grow up mimicking the behaviors observed from adults.

So while two people of the same sex may express love for one another, it does not mean that the State has an obligation or duty to grant them marital status. Marriage is a privilege the State should protect, but it is not a right for same-sex partners, multiple partners, or any configuration of people and animals that express love for one another.

Fighting to protect marriage in America will likely be a very long and difficult process, but so is the struggle for a lot of worthy things in this country. Women fought for decades before they were finally allowed to vote. The struggle for slaves to become free and ultimately to have their full civil rights recognized was a terribly long process. But we must not give up. It is my hope that more and more Americans will realize the significance this issue has for all of us as Americans. I hope that as the debate continues on the issue of marriage we will have a growing concern for who this affects most: our children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VOTER PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Voter Protection Act of 2004. This bill would allow criminal prosecution of any individual, group, or organization that tries to mislead, intimidate, misrepresent or otherwise interfere with anyone exercising the right to vote. It would impose a fine, imprisonment for up to one year, or both against violators. I introduce this bill, because as the presidential election fast approaches, it is evident that there are concerted efforts to mislead or intimidate voters across the country, especially minority voters.

A recent report entitled *The Long Shadow of Jim Crow: Voter Intimidation and Suppression in America Today*, (September 2004), coauthored by the People for the American Way Foundation and the NAACP, highlights efforts to intimidate and suppress minority voters around the country. It contains many recent egregious examples during this election cycle that illustrate the necessity for this legislation:

In July 2004, Kentucky Black Republican officials joined to ask their State GOP party chairman to reject plans to place "vote challengers" in African American precincts during the upcoming election. (Source: Louisville Courier-Journal, 8/3/04).

Just this summer, a Member of the Michigan State Legislature, Representative John Pappageorge, was quoted as saying, "If we do not suppress the Detroit vote, we're going to have a tough time this election." Mr. Speaker, you may not be aware, but African-Americans comprise 83 percent of Detroit's population. (Source: Detroit Free Press).

In South Dakota's June 2004 primary, Native American voters were prevented from voting after they were asked for identification, which they are not required to present under state and federal laws.

In 2004 in Texas, students at Prairie View A&M once again are suing for the right to register to vote in Waller County—after being threatened with criminal prosecution by the district attorney. In fact, an earlier controversy had led to a lawsuit and a 1978 federal court order prohibiting the local registrar from treating Prairie View students differently from other county voters. (Source: Houston Chronicle, 2/6/04).

These are glaring examples that demonstrate that the problems surrounding the 2000 presidential election in Florida were not a fluke, but symptomatic of a larger nationwide problem.

I cite one other recent example from the press.

The New York Times recently reported that police officers visited the homes of elderly African Americans in Orlando, Florida flaunting their guns and questioning them about their legal voter registration activities.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to cite a not so long ago example of attempts to mislead voters in my own district:

In Baltimore, Maryland, in the 2002 election, anonymous fliers were posted in several predominantly Black neighborhoods with the heading "URGENT NOTICE". The flier listed the wrong date for Election Day and warned that parking tickets and overdue rent should be paid before voting. (Source: Baltimore Sun, 11/6/02).

I think my colleagues can see the pattern of suppression, misrepresentation and intimidation, especially in "high stakes" elections—it is both obvious and atrocious.

Mr. Speaker, as the men and women of all backgrounds in our armed services fight abroad to promote democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is absolutely unconscionable and unpatriotic to allow illegal voter suppression activity to persist in our own country. Yet it does. Allowing such improprieties to continue—by those who actively seek to hinder or to deny altogether certain individuals' ability to vote—goes against the fundamental tenets of fairness and freedom woven into the fabric of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we are now 26 days away from what will be one of the most decisive elections of our lifetime. In order to ensure every person's "right to vote," voter intimidation and interference must be stopped.

Accordingly, we must combat these tactics by ensuring that there are sufficient repercussions—and that these individuals are held accountable for their actions. The Voter Protection Act of 2004 will help to ensure this accountability. It would do so by imposing criminal penalties and fines for anyone or group that engages in fraudulent tactics, including distributing fliers or calling potential voters with misinformation, or any other such attempts to mislead or intimidate voters.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you, 40 years after the passage of the Voting Rights Act, asking that the Congress ensure that we not repeat the mistakes of the past, but indeed write a new page in history. I ask that we send a message to this country's citizens that they will be free to vote. I ask that we send a message to those so inclined that misleading, sup-

pressing and intimidating voters is wrong and cannot continue. The Voter Protection Act of 2004 will help to assure Americans of the unencumbered right to vote.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, when the Constitution of the United States was originally adopted in 1788, many of us would have been ineligible to vote. Thankfully, there were people in this country who resisted against that injustice—in fact, died to correct it. The Voter Protection Act of 2004 will continue this tradition of ensuring that every vote is precious and protected.

If Congress passes this legislation, we will demonstrate to the Nation and to the world that America does not tolerate any impositions on the sacred privilege of voting. I urge all of my colleagues to join me by co-sponsoring this legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUG KING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Doug King, a dedicated businessman from my hometown of Grand Junction, Colorado. Doug has been an empathetic and generous employer for the McDonald's company. Recently Doug was nominated for the Ronald Award that is given to owners and operators that are outstanding citizens in their communities and, it is my privilege to recognize his service before this body of Congress and Nation today.

Every year Doug donates his time and resources with thousands of programs like the Moab Senior Volunteer Program, The United Way, and several local, elementary, middle and high schools. Doug revolutionized the Mesa County Fair Program by spending thousands of dollars bidding up the price for third through last place animals at the fair, allowing many third place animals in Mesa County to bring in as much money as first place ones. At the end of the day the children always get to keep the animal that they have spent months raising with such special care.

I personally know Doug well, and he is one of the most generous people I have ever met. There are many occasions to point to like the time he bought hundreds of dictionaries for the Grand Junction Rotary so that every third grader in Grand Junction could have one. On another occasion he bought one-hundred extra-value meals to give to a mother who lost her child so she could give them to the homeless to feel better about herself. The one that really stands out is the bonus program that he developed for his employees. He developed the program to reward his employees for working hard, and initially it entailed giving away cash prizes at the end of every week up to four hundred dollars. The program was so effective Doug upped the ante giving away a Jeep Cherokee, a six-person spa, television sets, and a Ford Mustang Convertible.

Mr. Speaker, Doug King is a wonderful ambassador for the McDonald's company and a dedicated member of the Grand Junction community who has made public service a priority in his life. He is an excellent employer who truly cares for his employees and even more, he is a wonderful family man. He engenders